

Message Text

PAGE 01 PARIS 00786 101737Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 101708Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5985

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T PARIS 0786

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: BGEN LON NON'S LANS

REF: PHNOM PENH 300

1. BGEN LON NON TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO SHORTEN HIS COURSE TO THREE MONTHS (DATING FROM HIS RETURN JANUARY 10) SO THAT HE WOULD BE READY TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA SHOULD HIS PRESENCE BE REQUIRED. HE WAS DETERMINED TO COMPLETE HIS COURSE IN THE US, BUT THOUGHT ORIGINAL TIME SET WAS TOO LONG.

2. LON NON SAID THAT DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM IN PHNOM PENH OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY, PARTICULARLY ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE -- HE NOTED THAT HE AND UM SIM HAD BEEN ABSENT FOR SOME TIME. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO PART FRIENDS THAT THE PARTY CONGRESS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20 BE DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO SOUNDED OUT SOME US MILITARY COLLEAGUES TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS ABSENCE FOR A TEN DAY PERIOD TO ATTEND THE PARTY CONFERENCE IN PHNOM PENH WOULD INTERFERE WITH HIS COURSE, AND WAS SATISFIED THAT IT WOULD NOT INTERRUPT UNDULY HIS STUDIES. (HE DID NOT SAY THAT THE PARTY MEETING WOULD DEFINITELY BE EXTENDED OR THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND.)

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 00786 101737Z

3. LON NON SAID THAT WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT BY THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT, THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY HAD DECIDED THAT THE EXPERIMENT OF DIVIDED GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN MAJORITY AND MINORITY PARTIES

HAD ENDED, AND IT WAS TIME FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
POSITION THAT THE MAJORITY SHOULD GOVERN AND HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS ACTIONS. THE MINORITY PARTIES SHOULD
BEHAVE LIKE A LOYAL OPPOSITION. (HE INDICATED A FAIRLY LIMITED
DEFINITION OF WHAT OPPOSITION WOULD BE CONSIDERED STILL
"LOYAL.") HE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER, BUT INDICATED
THAT A MORE DEFINITE POSITION MIGHT EMERGE FROM PARTY CONGRESS.
STRONG

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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